



Aged Care

**Volunteer**

**Visitors** Scheme

Funded by the Australian Government



**Golden Retriever Club of South Australia**



**CARING CANINE COMPANIONS**

[www.caringcaninecompanions.org.au](http://www.caringcaninecompanions.org.au)

[Enquiries@caringcaninecompanions.org.au](mailto:Enquiries@caringcaninecompanions.org.au)

## Dog Assessment Information

### DOG ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

#### WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN A CARING CANINE COMPANION

- Generally aged from two years old
- Healthy (for example, no signs of pain due to arthritis)
- Friendly and outgoing
- Enjoys human interaction
- Obedient and has manners
- Is comfortable with being handled all over each having mouth, ears, tail and legs handled
- Has had some obedience training and knows how to heel, sit, stay and laydown on command

#### UNDESIRABLE BEHAVIOUR – CONTACT OUR ASSESSOR FOR HELPFUL TIPS PRIOR TO ASSESSMENT

- Paws or jumps for attention
- Jumps on furniture
- Snatches food
- Steals food off the table
- Hasn't had any obedience training

#### UNSAFE BEHAVIOUR – PLEASE DO NOT APPLY

- Has shown any form of aggression to a person, child or animal
- Likes to play by using its teeth, mouthy
- Is anxious and doesn't cope in new environments
- Barks and whines excessively for no reason
- Is over-reactive to outside stimuli including other animals
- Doesn't like to be touched by strangers

Are you still unsure whether your dog would be suitable to work as a Caring Canine Companion?

Please give us a call.

We can get one of our assessors to ring you so they can have a chat with you and answer any questions you may have before your dog comes in for an assessment.



# ASSESSMENT PROCESS

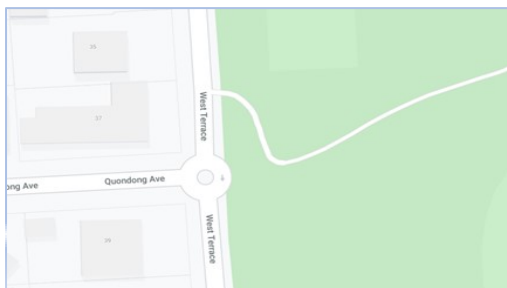
OUR ASSESSMENT PROCESS CONSISTS OF TWO STAGES.

## First stage – Low stress environment

One of our assessors will contact you to organise and book a suitable time to assess your dog and to meet you.

### Frequency, Location and Duration

On a Sunday, generally once a month at Kensington Gardens, Burnside, and will take up to 30 minutes – if times and/or place are unsuitable, other arrangements can be discussed with the assessor at the time of booking



Once your dog passes the first stage, the assessor will discuss with you the second stage of the assessment. This will take place in an Aged Care Home.

Pre-requirements for the Second Stage are:

- receipt of Police Clearance and
- completion of the Golden Retriever Club Membership, Volunteer Agreement and Declaration forms.

## Second stage – Aged Care Home

Your dog will need to be comfortable walking on different surfaces, like linoleum to carpet, up and down stairs, down narrow corridors.

He/she will be exposed to people using walking frames, wheelchairs, high beds, walking canes, different smells, food trolleys and will need to be comfortable with people walking close behind, touching him/her suddenly and unexpectedly.

*It is perfectly normal for a dog to show some anxiety the first time it goes into a facility. The assessor will decide whether your dog will cope long term or whether the environment may be too stressful. Some dogs may cope better in a smaller facility.*



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<https://caringcaninecompanions.org.au>

